

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /063 W

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R 080732Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3140

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SY

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS PRESIDENT ASAD'S SPEECH TO DELEGATES

SIXTH REGIONAL BAATH PARTY CONGRESS

REF: DAMASCUS 1271

1. DAMASCUS PRESS HEADLINED PRESIDENT ASAD'S OPENING
SPEECH BEFORE THE DELEGATES TO THE SIXTH REGIONAL CONGRESS
OF BAATH PARTY WHICH BEGAN ITS SESSIONS APRIL 5. ASAD
OPENED BY DRAWING CONTRAST BETWEEN THIS CONGRESS AND
PREVIOUS REGIONAL PARTY CONGRESSES. PAST CONGRESSES,
HE STATED, HAD BEEN CONVENED TO DEAL WITH SPECIAL PARTY
CRISES WHEREAS THIS CONGRESS WAS MEETING AT CONCLUSION
OF REGIONAL COMMAND'S FOUR-YEAR TERM AND AFTER LONG PERIOD
OF STABILITY TO DISCUSS GENERAL TRENDS IN PARTY AND
NATIONAL POLICY. ASAD EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIA HAD
"ACHIEVED STAGE OF MATURITY" WHICH ALLOWED IT TO
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DEAL WITH ISSUES OF GENERAL RATHER THAN FACTIONAL

INTEREST. ASAD ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESS HAD RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF PAST DECISIONS, SIGNALLING THAT PARTY AND GOVERNMENT UNDER HIS STABLE LEADERSHIP HAD RACKED UP SOME PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENTS WORTHY OF DISCUSSION. IT IS ALSO NOTE-WORTHY THAT ASAD PASSED UP OPPORTUNITY TO RETALIATE AGAINST RECENT IRAQI STATEMENTS.

2. ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE REPORTED THAT CONGRESS HAD ELECTED ITS EXECUTIVE BUREAU, MENTIONING POSITIONS OF CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN AND TWO SECRETARIES. DELEGATES ALSO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO ONE OF FOUR COMMITTEES: ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY, DOMESTIC POLICY, ECONOMIC POLICY, AND ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY.

3. AL-THAWRAH EDITOR ALI SULAYMAN IN APRIL 7 INTER-
PRETILL FMWMRIAL ON BAATH PARTY'S PRESENT AND HISTORICAL STAGES, PRAISED PARTY'S STEADFASTNESS TO ARAB AND PALESTINIAN CAUSE WHICH NONETHELESS DID NOT PREVENT SYRIA FROM ATTEMPTING TO REACH POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO RECOVER SYRIA'S RIGHTS, "OR SOME OF THEM" WHILE PREPARING TO RECIVER ALL RIGHTS.

4. AMONG FLOOD OF CONGRATULATORY CABLES RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT ASAD ON OCCASION OF CONGRESS THOSE FROM GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV, PFLP-GENERAL COMMAND AND ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT DESERVE MENTION.

5. COMMENT: CONTINUING PUBLICITY GIVEN CONGRESS ACTIVITIES SUGGESTS THAT A MAJOR GOAL OF ITS ORGANIZAERS IS TO HIGHLIGHT STABILITY, STEADFASTNESS AND FLEXIBILITY OF CURRENT REGIME.
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